

ADULT

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT GUIDELINE

SYRUP OF IPECAC

SYRUP OF IPECAC IS USED TO INDUCE VOMITING. IT SHOULD NOT BE ADMINISTERED ROUTINELY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF POISONED PATIENTS. PROCEED WITH GUIDELINE ONLY ON THE ADVICE OF ON-LINE MEDICAL CONTROL.

INDICATIONS:

- Poisoning by mouth in the conscious patient.
- Must be given within 20-30 minutes of ingestion of the poison
- Patient is suspected to have ingested a potentially toxic or lethal amount of poison.

POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS:

- May delay administration of or reduce the effectiveness of activated charcoal or oral antidotes.
- Vomiting and airway obstruction.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Altered mental status, seizures or third trimester of pregnancy.
- Ingestion of hydrocarbons, corrosive or caustic substances.
- Ingestion of poisons which are likely to cause rapid onset of loss of consciousness, coma or seizures.

PRECAUTIONS:

- Patient must be capable and willing to swallow ipecac.
- Ipecac may take up to 30 minutes to work, do not delay transport waiting for results.
- Use Pediatric Guideline for children under 18.

1. Assess the patient, treat ABC problems, obtain baseline vitals and consider transport plan based on general impression.
2. Remove any remaining pills, tablets, or fragments from patients' mouth, if necessary.
3. Determine what the patient has ingested and read label regarding poisoning directions, if applicable.
4. Contact on-line medical control. Follow orders received from on-line medical control.
5. If unable to contact medical control, contact Poison Control at 1-800-860-0620, or on the designated EMS frequency. Follow directions to administer Syrup of Ipecac if directed by Poison Control. Proceed with guideline.

The Idaho EMS Bureau has taken extreme caution to ensure all information is accurate and in accordance with professional standards in effect at the time of publication. This guideline is for reference and may be modified at the discretion of the EMS Medical Director. It is recommended that care be based on the patient's clinical presentation and on authorized policies and guidelines.

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6. Take full body substance isolation precautions (gloves, mask, eye protection, and clothing cover)!
7. Check the expiration date and confirm that the medication is Syrup of Ipecac.
8. Do not administer Activated Charcoal concurrently with Ipecac.
9. Have an emesis basin or hazardous waste bag, and suction ready.
10. Administer one dose orally according to the following guidelines:
 - Adults: 30 ml
11. The emetic action is improved if fluids are given orally just before or after the Ipecac. Precede or follow the dose with up to 8 oz of water or until vomiting is induced. Emetic action may be enhanced by ambulation.
12. Record the time of administration and dose given.
13. Be prepared for the patient to vomit. Have suction ready and transport the patient in a seated position or on their side. Transport promptly and perform ongoing assessment en route.
14. Do not administer more than one dose without On-Line Medical Control permission.

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